



**COUNTY OF  
SAN BERNARDINO**

**COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE  
OFFICE**

**LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS**  
385 North Arrowhead Avenue  
San Bernardino, CA 92415-0110  
(909) 387-4821

GREGORY C. DEVEREAUX  
Chief Executive Officer

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**The House and Senate are in session this week. Below you will find a listing of federal legislative activities the County and federal advocates are monitoring the week of July 16, 2012.**

**House Hearings and Mark Ups**

**Wednesday, July 18, 2012**

Hearing entitled "Monetary Policy and the State of the Economy"

10:00 AM | Host: Committee on Financial Services | Full Committee - The Honorable Ben Bernanke, Chairman, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System is a scheduled witness.

Subcommittee Mark Up - FY 2013 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations Bill

10:00 AM | Host: Committee on Appropriations | Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies - On June 14, the Senate Appropriations Committee approved the FY 2013 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies appropriations bill, which provides close to level funding for most WIA programs, including Adult Employment and Training, Youth Training, Dislocated Worker Assistance, and the Workforce Innovation Fund.

**Thursday, July 19, 2012**

Health Care Realignment and Regulation: The Demise of Small and Solo Medical Practices?

12:00 AM | Host: Committee on Small Business | Subcommittee on Investigations, Oversight and Regulations - This hearing will provide an opportunity for Members to learn more about the reasons for a changing health care industry that is seeing more doctors leave small practices to join larger medical practices or hospitals.

Camp Announces Hearing on Tax Reform and the U.S. Manufacturing Sector

9:30 AM | Host: Committee on Ways and Means | Full Committee - This hearing will examine how the current tax system affects U.S. manufacturers, including U.S.-based public and closely held companies as well as foreign-owned U.S. manufacturers, and how comprehensive tax reform might affect their ability to expand and create jobs. The United States has the highest corporate income tax rate in the developed world at 39.2 percent (federal and state combined) – compared to the OECD average of approximately 25 percent – and recent economic research indicates that much of the corporate tax is borne by workers in the form of lower wages and fewer jobs.

Legislative Hearing

9:00 AM | Host: Committee on Natural Resources | Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests and Public Lands on:

- H.R. 5744 - To address the forest health, public safety, and wildlife habitat threat presented by the risk of wildfire, including catastrophic wildfire, on National Forest System lands and public lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management by requiring the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior to expedite forest management projects relating to hazardous fuels reduction, forest health, and economic development, and for other purposes.
- H.R. 5960 - To amend the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 to improve the response to insect infestations and related diseases and to change the funding source for the Healthy Forests Reserve Program, to codify the stewardship end result contracting and good neighbor authorities, and to amend the emergency watershed protection program to improve post fire rehabilitation, and for other purposes.

*The mission of the government of the County of San Bernardino is to satisfy its customers by providing service that promotes the health, safety, well being, and quality of life of its residents according to the County Charter, general laws, and the will of the people it serves.*

## Federal Legislative Activities - July 16, 2012

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- H.R. 6089 - To address the bark beetle epidemic, drought, deteriorating forest health conditions, and high risk of wildfires on National Forest System land and land under the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Land Management in the United States by expanding authorities established in the Healthy Forest Restoration Act of 2003 to provide emergency measures for high-risk areas identified by such States, to make permanent Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management authority to conduct good-neighbor cooperation with States to reduce wildfire risks, and for other purposes.

Hearing: Chairman Davis Announces Hearing on the Use of Technology to Improve the Administration of SSI's Financial Eligibility Requirements

9:30 AM | Host: Committee on Ways and Means | Human Resources - According to the SSA actuaries, the SSI program is expected to grow by one million recipients in the next decade, with the largest growth coming among those over the age of 65. The administration of these financial eligibility requirements can be difficult and error-prone if done manually and based on recipient-reported data. For fiscal year 2011, the SSI program had a 9.1% error rate, representing \$4.6 billion in improper payments. To address this longstanding issue, SSA continues to look for ways to use technology to reduce error rates. Through this and other automation efforts, SSA is expected to achieve significant program savings and has already reduced the SSI error rate by 17 percent in the last two years, even as overall benefit outlays have increased.

### **Bills that may be considered in the House this week**

- S. 2039 - A bill to allow a State or local government to construct levees on certain properties otherwise designated as open space lands. Under the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program within the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, FEMA can provide hazard mitigation assistance in connection with flooding only if the project in question meets certain criteria. One of the eligibility criteria provides that any lands acquired, from which structures would be removed, be dedicated to open space, recreation or wetlands management purposes. No new structure may be erected on the property, except restrooms or other open-space facilities. The Transportation and Infrastructure Committee has not acted on the bill, which the Senate passed January 26 by unanimous consent.
- H.R. 5872 - Sequestration Transparency Act of 2012 - Sequestration Transparency Act. The bill, which will be considered under suspension of the rules, requires the president to prepare a report within 30 days of enactment detailing the automatic cuts to discretionary and mandatory spending that would occur to individual programs and activities on Jan. 2, 2013, under the currently scheduled sequestration. The Senate in June adopted a bipartisan amendment to its farm bill seeking similar information.

### **Senate Hearings**

#### **Wednesday, July 18, 2012**

2:00 PM Special Committee on Aging - Hearings to examine Medicare and Medicaid coordination for dual-eligibles.

3:00 PM Commerce, Science, and Transportation: Subcommittee on Aviation Operations, Safety, and Security - Hearing to examine the global competitiveness of the United States Aviation Industry, focusing on addressing competition issues to maintain United States leadership in the aerospace market.